

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
HAZELWOOD  
File

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25 July, 1977

Miss Callie Colvin  
12035 Hazelwood Dr.  
Nokesville, Virginia  
22123

594-2743

Dear Miss Colvin:

Your letter concerning the threat to build a dam on Cedar Run which would materially damage your property near Nokesville, has reached me, to my considerable dismay. That there should be any proposal to destroy this historic landmark, made by informed planners, seems hard to believe. My own interest, as a descendant of the Foote family, places me in a position to give its history and I am only too glad to do so if it will be of any help.

"Truro" and "Hazelwood" beyond any question are part of the Brent Town Tract granted 10 January, 1687, by Thomas, Lord Culpeper, containing 30,000 acres "on both sides of the Southwest and Northeast branches of Ocaquan Creek (Cedar Run and Broad Run) and from thence toward the mountains". The grantees were four men; Nicholas Hayward of London, merchant; Richard Foote, Hayward's son-in-law, Robert Bristoe of London, merchant and George Brent of "Woodstock", planter. Their original intent was to provide a refuge for French Huguenots evicted from France as a result of the revocation of the edict of Nantes in 1685.

The land was then too far from any settlement and too exposed to Indian attack to attract many settlers. It was directly on the Shenandoah Hunting Path which passed through or near the village of Sewego, used by the tribes annually to reach the Carolinas. The Brents built a blockhouse near Sewego, but it did little to reassure the prospective settlers. Not until the Treaty of the Long House in 1727 removed the Indians west of the Blue Ridge, did people feel it safe to settle there.

Meanwhile the Brent Town Tract was split between the original owners. On the death of Nicholas Hayward, the heirs sold their share except, of course, for the part that fell to Hester Hayward who married the younger Richard Foote. The Bristoes hung on to theirs only to lose it after the Revolution as alien owners. George Brent sold most of his part to the Fitzhugh family who settled there. Richard Foote, 1666-1725, son of Richard and Hester (Hayward) Foote, settled in St. Paul's Parish, Stafford County, and his son built "Cedar Grove" there. This Richard Foote, 1704-1762, fourth of the name, married Katherine Fossaker. On his death he left "Cedar Grove" to his eldest daughter, who married the Rev. William Stuart. To his eldest son Richard, he left that part of the immense Foote dividend of the Brent Town Tract that lay in Prince William County. Young Richard, b: 3 Feb. 1729, had been established there some years before his father's death, and had built "Truro", named for the family home in Cornwall. There was almost certainly a cabin on the place to "seat" it, according to the terms of the Culpeper grant, and the land had been under cultivation a long time.

Richard Foote, 1729-1779, married Margaret Helm, daughter of Lynaugh and Hester (Edrington) Helm, and had five children at "Truro".

1. William Hayward, ca. 1765-1846. Adopted by his aunt Elizabeth Foote, wife of Lund Washington and inherited "Hayfield" adjoining "Mount Vernon."
2. Richard, 1768-1834, inherited "Truro".
3. Catherine, 1769-1831, m: Col. John Stuart Alexander, my gr. gr. gr. grandfather.
4. Maria, died young. buried at "Truro" 1784.
5. Elizabeth, b: ca. 1775. m: Dr. John Chiro, moved to Mississippi.

When Richard Foote died in 1779, his widow married John Thornton Fitzhugh and continued to reside at "Truro". When her son Richard came of age in 1789, he took his share of his father's property which included the old cabin and, about the time of his marriage in 1803, built adjoining it a fine house which he called "Hazelwood" which still stands. You know, because it has been your home most of your life.

Nearby in the Colvin/Foote family cemetery. (in addition to those of your family, whose names are better known to you), lie the following members of the Foote family, whose graves you have so carefully maintained for so many years.

1. Richard Foote, 1729-1779, whose grave retains its fine marker.
2. Helen Gibbons (Stuart) Foote, 1776-1813, first wife of Richard Foote, 1768-1834 (son of the above).
3. Lucy (Taliaferro) Foote, 1771-1819, second wife of Richard Foote, 1768-1834.
4. Mary Ann or Maria Foote, 1770-1784.

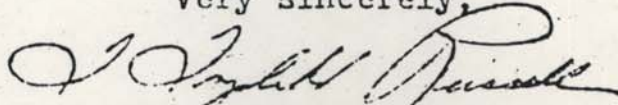
There are other graves at "Truro", unmarked or at least now without headstones. Among them are children of Richard and Helen Gibbons (Stuart Foote):

5. Helen Maria Foote, b: 1803, died in infancy.
6. Richard Stuart Foote, b: 1807, died in infancy.

"Truro" was built about 1755 and was occupied by the Fitzhughs for some years after the death of Richard Foote in 1779. I do not know when the Colvins acquired both properties but it was between the last Foote burial in 1819 and that of George M. Colvin in 1841. You have more on these dates than I have, but only two families, the Footes and Colvins have farmed this land for about two hundred and fifty years. What was made possible by the Treaty of the Long House in 1722, may be made impossible by an unwise action in 1977. If this is what is called progress in Virginia today then they must care very little indeed for their heritage.

Upon rather brief examination of the old cabin joined to "Hazelwood" made some years ago, I found indications that it was indeed a surviving example of a cabin built to "seat" a tract of land. If so it could be one of the oldest structures left standing in Prince William County. More careful examination by trained experts might prove or disprove this belief. Certainly, until every bit of information is obtained, it would be criminal to even consider anything that might endanger its security.

Very sincerely,



Thomas Triplett Russell, F.A.I.A.

# This...I'd Die'

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Household water, once taken for granted by most consumers, has become long overdue for attention. The last four months because of summer drought and the stress of 1,000 Northern Virginians put on the Occoquan Reservoir. To increase the amount of water Prince William countians will have to draw in the future, the supervisors have asked that a new water impoundment be built on Cedar Run. Journal Messenger staff writer Lizzie Larson has taken a look at the water shortage, the solutions and why the Cedar Run would affect the county. Here is the first of her reports.

**BY KRISTY LARSON**

**JM Staff Writer**

Callie Colvin's roots are deep. They reach every corner of her 305 acre farm in Nokesville. They twine around her home, "Hazelwood," built in 1803.

It is the land's product and the farmer's pride.

But like a tree by a stream—able to stand any longer against constant erosion of its soil—Callie's "too, may have to bend in the times.

Her property is among the 178 acres which will be flooded if the proposed Cedar Run dam is built. The \$57.1-million impoundment is planned just upstream from the confluence of Cedar and Broad Run.

A flood about 3,200 acres in the Leesville District near Nokesville. The county has applied for construction permits and the re-auction process has begun. If major problems can be avoided, the dam could be operation by 1980.

At age 85, Miss Callie—as she is called by her friends and neighbors—still prides herself on the fact

that she is actively farming. "As long as I'm able to go, I'm gone," she says.

She has 60 head of beef cattle, which she raises to help pay for the taxes on her farm, and leases some of the land to the Earhart family to work.

Miss Callie has a tractor and says she helped with the planting this year. With obvious pride, she shows an ear of corn from this year's crop. While the kernels are shriveled due to the summer's drought, the ear is large. This is what people call prime farmland.

"Can you imagine what this would look like if we had rain?" asks Miss Callie.

She can't conceive of anyone destroying the beauty, history or productivity of this land.

"This farm is producing food. Look at how high prices are today," she says. "The taxes are terrific. If they put the dam up, where are they going to get the taxes?"

Miss Callie's house sits on a knoll just up a piece from Cedar Run. Trees line the creek and fences separate the low lying fields.

She figures that her 19th century home would be surrounded by water making it impossible to live there if the dam is built. The exact areas to be flooded have not yet been determined by the county.

She suggests that water for the eastern end of the county be piped from the Shenandoah River or a dam be built on Bull Run rather than on Cedar Run.

The 85-year-old farmer notes that her land has been in only two families for about 250 years. The previous family built her home "Hazelwood" in 1803 and her grandfather acquired the land in 1803. See "Cedar Run" on A-3

Miss Callie Colvin's home (top) is threatened

if Cedar Run dam is built. Visitors seldom leave

## Cedar Run

Continued from Page A-1

1835. She believes that part of the house may have been constructed around a cabin built in about the mid 1700s to claim the land.

Miss Callie hasn't always lived at "Hazelwood" and worked the land. She was born and raised there and was the youngest of eight children of Lizzie and Calhoun Colvin.

She attended a girl's college Southern Seminary in Buena Vista for two years. But at age 27, Miss Callie set off to do missionary work.

"I look to the Lord's work myself," she says, explaining that she was a religious child and carried her beliefs with her in adulthood.

She travelled with roving evangelists up and down the east coast. Miss Callie recalls that she rigged up an amplifying system and would broadcast in towns for local politicians for money.

Then she would have enough funds to do her work providing those without money with clothes and other goods, helping the sick and treating the destitute.

In 1932 she stopped travelling and lived in Rochester, N. Y. and carried on her missionary work.

"It was interesting work," she recalls. "The problem with welfare today is that they don't investigate. I would go to help a family and find out who was sick, what they needed and all of the facts."

While in her 40s, Miss Callie was called home to visit her dying mother. She remembers leaving Rochester at 2 a.m. and never seeing her mother again until she died in 1948.

birth and destiny. When Miss Callie was born, she became critically ill and the local doctor was called, her mother related from her sick bed.

Some medicine was prescribed but it had no effect and the doctor told Lizzie Colvin that Miss Callie was going to die. In fact, Miss Callie says her mother told her, "the doctor pronounced the baby dead and she was dressed and laid out for the funeral."

"But Mother wouldn't leave me before," says Miss Callie. "She had just lost a baby the year before," says Miss Callie.

"Mother was a praying woman if there ever was one," she recalls. "She folded her hands and said, 'Lord, if you give my baby back to me, I'll give her to you for your work.'"

Miss Callie says that she massaged her mother as she had done for so many people she had worked for as a missionary and got her mother up again before she returned to Rochester.

When she left, Lizzie Colvin asked to see Miss Callie one last time. "I prayed for you every day since you've been gone," is what her mother said.

"That's remarkable how she told God that, and I didn't know it until I was in my 40s," says Miss Callie.

She came home for good in 1948 when a sister was ill and could no longer take care of the farm. And this is where she wants to live out her days, feeding her cattle, helping with the farming and doing the daily chores.

"If they were to take this away and give me a little house, I'd die," says Miss Callie.

A look at the current

1980